Andover Theol. Seminary January 11th 1857

Dear Brethren in Christ

It again becomes our pleasure to communicate to you the progress and state of the missionary spirit in our institution, accompanied by such missionary intelligence as will cheer the christian heart and prompt to a more active faith. During the present term, now almost half completed, we have held two public meetings - both of which were marked by much interest. At each deeply interesting letters were read from missionaries which could not fail of exciting to more fervent prayer and deeper consecration to the work. We cannot forbear alluding to one from Dr Bridgman of China, whose earnest appeals - stirred the depths of christian benevolence & made it seem a great privilege to be called to the missionary work. His Christ-like - self-denying spirit reminded one strongly of your beloved Lowrie - whom God took off in the midst of his years - doubtless for higher & holier service in his courts above. Likewise from Dr Krieg of Athens, around whom persecution has so fiercely raged, we had a communication - glowing with affectionate sympathy & devotedness to his work. In his letter, was mentioned a project which is shortly we verily believe to be realized - & which is pregnant with the immortal interests of millions - peopling & to people our Western world -

He stated that ever since he had heard of the emigration to the Ofhir of the Western Hemisphere – as also to our new territories of Utah & New Mexico, his thoughts had been dwelling on the establishment of a "school of the prophets there" – His heart yearned to see it – for not only would it provide a ministry for that vast region – itself a work of mighty consequence – but also there might be found there – the inhabitants of the Celestial Empire, having cast aside the dogmas of Confucius – side by side with the Brahmin of Hindostan, with his Shasters closed forever, both preparing to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ – Was not the picture a delightful one for the faith of the Christian to contemplate? Ought it not, brethren, to animate us to a more enlarged faith & more active zeal – thus to see veterans in the cause of missions looking far into the future for the results of missionary labor. What a faith it argues in them! What a faith it should inspire in us!

It is well known to you that the Am. Board at their last annual meeting made a strong appeal to the churches to double their subscriptions in the present year – What the results of the appeal will be – is yet all unknown – but it seems to us – that the churches must soon pray for double the number of young men to fill the missionstations – for at times to the reflecting christian it seems a dark problem, to be solved only by the mighty power of the Spirit in answer to prayer, as to how the rapidly & widely increasing foreign fields are to be supplied

with no corresponding increase of candidates for the work - in our Seminaries - Are our churches fully awake to the importance of this subject? Have they not neglected the petition "to send forth laborers into the harvest" - It rejoices us, brethren, to be able to communicate a deeper interest in missions in our institutions - In the entering class - many are looking forward to missionary labor either in the West or in foreign shores & it is our most ardent prayer that there may go forth from these walls - others Judsons & Mills' to reanimate the Churches in this the greatest of modern enterprises - It is most cheering to survey the fruit, already borne on the line which spreads two half centuries - From this point surveying what fruits & efforts in this cause have accomplished it nerves us to greater vigilance and zeal, and doubtless it forms an agreeable employment for your faith to pass on the picture which the close of the present half century will present to the christian student -

In behalf of the Society of Inquiry
I am, dear Brethren - Yours &c
Jas. O. Murray